

Date: 4/24/96

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to encourage you to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act of 1990 (MM No. 93-48).

Broadcast television can play an unprecedented role in nourishing the minds of our nation's children. In the Commission's own words: "There are many imaginative and exciting ways in which the medium can be used to further a child's understanding of a wide range of areas: history, science, literature, the environment, drama, music, fine arts, human relations, other cultures and languages, and basic skills such as reading and mathematics which are crucial to child's development." (1974 FCC Policy Statement)

Broadcasters have the talent to create children's shows which are as educational as they are entertaining. Yet, today's children have greater access to sensationalistic talk shows, violent cartoons, and adult sitcoms than they do to programming designed to enrich their minds.

The FCC needs to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act by establishing real policies designed to safeguard the interests of our children. These should include a clearer definition of "educational" programming and a requirement that television stations air at least one hour a day of 30-minute educational shows between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. in regularly scheduled time slots.

No other regulatory body is in a position to make this happen. Please...America's children are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Reva Willdorf
(Signature)

Reva Willdorf
Name (Printed)

Title (if applicable)

813 N. Harper Ave.
Street address

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Organization (if applicable)

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LOS ANGELES 25 APR 1966

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. N.W. Rm. 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MM 93-48

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April 27, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hunt:

I am very concerned about the new rating system for TV programming to be developed by the TV industry or FCC for use along with a "V-Chip."

The "V-Chip" and a rating system must not be allowed to substitute for responsibility on the part of the television industry and the FCC to develop a stricter standard of decency in programming and enforcement of it.

I understand that Congress has instructed the FCC, "in consultation with appropriate public interest groups," to determine if rules established by the TV industry for rating TV programming are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with "appropriate public interest groups" in order to establish its own rating system.

I am writing to urge you to include Morality in Media (212-870-3222) as one of the "public interest groups." I firmly believe this group would work in the best interests of the public. They represent responsible, caring families and citizens concerned about upholding standards of decency on the airwaves and TV.

Sincerely,

Jeannine M. Prager

(Mrs.) Jeannine M. Prager
N8 W27947 Northview Rd.
Waukesha, WI 53188

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4/25, 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman Hunt:

I am deeply concerned about the new "rating system" for TV programming, to be developed by the television industry or FCC for use in conjunction with a "V-Chip."

A "V-Chip" and rating system must NOT be an excuse for the TV industry to shift responsibility for establishing and enforcing sound program standards off of its own shoulders onto the shoulders of beleaguered parents OR for the FCC to not enforce the broadcast indecency law -- which, as you know, was again recently upheld by the Federal courts.

Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that a large majority of the population are concerned about the glut of sex, violence and vulgarity on TV. A primary part of this concern is the effect on children and youth. But large numbers of adults are also personally offended and do not feel that TV shows represent their own values.

The TV industry says it is giving the public what it wants and that programming merely reflects reality. But opinion polls and statements from prominent liberal and conservative spokespersons show that most people do not want a steady diet of gratuitous sex, violence and vulgarity on TV, either for themselves or their children.

Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.

Not that all TV programming is offensive or harmful. But, all too often, the TV industry serves its own interests, rather than the public interest, and reflects as "reality" the lifestyles and values of a small percentage of amoral or totally depraved individuals, rather than community standards and values. Ratings and a "V-Chip" may have their place, but not to "identify" a steady stream of cultural sewage packaged as TV "entertainment." The answer to this type of programming is to curb it at its source.

It has also been brought to my attention that Congress has instructed the FCC, "in consultation with appropriate public interest groups," to determine if rules established by the TV industry for rating TV programming are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with "appropriate public interest groups" in order to establish its own rating system.

In either case, I urge you to include Morality in Media [212-870-3222] as one of the "public interest groups." Founded in 1962, this national, interfaith organization has been at the forefront of efforts to uphold standards of decency on radio and TV.

Sincerely,

Cetus & Marge Schiltz
Kevin & Faith Schiltz
Mary Lynn Schiltz
R. du Schiltz

Please do something

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